



**CALIFORNIA
HIGH-SPEED RAIL
AUTHORITY**

Weekly Executive Director's Report, Dec. 18, 2009

FROM: Mehdi Morshed, Executive Director
TO: Authority Board Members

TOPIC / UPDATE

LINE SECTION

AUTHORITY STAFF

RELEVANT DATE

NEXT STEP / ACTION NEEDED

TOP ISSUES

Revised Business Plan Report to the Legislature

Authority staff delivered to the Legislature a revised business plan document by the deadline. The report was required by language contained within the state Budget Act. The report updates the cost of the project's Phase 1 by advancing it into years-of-construction dollars (rather than current-year dollars) and provides an updated financing plan that takes into account Proposition 1A, ARRA, and other funding sources that were not known last year.

- The report can be viewed at the Authority's Web site, here: <http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/library.asp?p=8200>.
- Regional stakeholder conference calls were held Dec. 14 with approximately 120 local government and transportation agency staff participating.
- A press briefing conference call was held Dec. 14.

A joint legislative committee hearing has been scheduled for Jan. 14 in Sacramento.

All

Mehdi Morshed, Jeff
Barker

12/15/2009

POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

CTC Guidelines for Prop 1A Dollars

Authority staff are working with California Transportation Commission in their development of draft guidelines for the allocation of the \$950 million local share of bond funds from Prop. 1A, which requires the commission to develop the guidelines for administration of the funds in consultation with the Authority. The draft guidelines are expected to be discussed at the commission's January 13-14, 2010 meeting.

Steve Schnaidt

1/13-14/2009

ENGINEERING/ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

Merced-Sacramento Scoping

The Notice of Intent (NOI) was prepared and sent to the Federal Railroad Administration on 12/11, and the Authority expects to be able to issue the Notice of Preparation (NOP) that will allow for the beginning of the scoping process in the section -- the last of the sections to enter the public environmental process. Dates have been set tentatively for late January for public meetings in the section.

Merced -
Sacramento

Dan Leavitt

12/11/2009

The FRA will publish the NOI in the Federal Register to kickoff the NEPA environmental review process. The Authority will submit the accompanying NOP to the State Clearinhouse immediately upon FRA approval of the NOI.
Public scoping meetings will be noticed and held.

Altamont Corridor Scoping

Public scoping meetings in the Altamont Corridor Rail Project concluded Nov. 18 with meetings in San Jose, Fremont, Livermore and Stockton. The meetings were well attended and garnered significant media attention. The Altamont Corridor Rail Project is a project separate from the high-speed rail project, and is jointly proposed by the Authority and the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission to connect Northern San Joaquin Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area from Stockton to San Jose via the Altamont Pass and Tri Valley area.

Altamont

Dan Leavitt

11/18/2009

The Scoping Report will be prepared and circulated for public review.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

See "Revised Business Plan Report to the Legislature" under Top Issues above

OUTREACH EFFORT HIGHLIGHTS

See "Revised Business Plan Report to the Legislature" under Top Issues above

Chair Pringle at Corona Chamber

Chairman Pringle was the keynote speaker at the Corona Chamber of Commerce's quarterly luncheon on Friday Dec. 11. The Chairman outlined the progress on the statewide high-speed rail system.

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| Los Angeles - San Diego | Jeff Barker | 12/11/2009 |
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Riverside Task Force

Regional outreach staff met with the City of Riverside High Speed Rail Task Force, led by Riverside's Mayor, which is seeking to ensure that a high-speed train station is located in Riverside. It was the first time the Authority had met with this group.

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| Los Angeles - San Diego | Jeff Barker | 12/14/2009 |
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Pre-Alternatives Analysis Draft Report Meetings

Regional outreach team has begun a series of meetings with staff from cities along the section prior to the issuance of a draft Alternatives Analysis report. Meetings were held this week with Palmdale and Los Angeles staff, and are scheduled next week with Glendale, San Fernando, and Burbank.

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| Los Angeles - Palmdale | Jeff Barker | 12/16-17/2009 |
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Orange County City Coordination

Regional outreach and Deputy Director Barker met with city managers and planners in Orange County at a meeting called by the Orange County Transportation Authority and hosted by OCTA's Will Kempton. The new forum was established by OCTA, a close working partner of the Authority's, to ensure adequate communication between the Authority and Orange County cities along the planned rail line.

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| Los Angeles - Anaheim | Jeff Barker | 12/10/2009 | Schedule additional coordination meetings as events merit them. |
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Fresno - Merced Public Information Meetings

Regional outreach staff held two public information meetings in the corridor -- in Merced and in Madera -- to update community members on the Alternatives Analysis process.

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| Fresno - Merced | Carrie Bowen | 12/17/2009 |
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Fresno City Council

Regional director Bowen updated the Fresno City Council on the status of the section by making a presentation before the Council.

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| Fresno- Merced and Fresno- Bakersfield | Carrie Bowen | 12/10/2009 |
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SF Supervisor Chris Daly

Regional director Bob Doty and PB regional manager Dominic Spaethling attended a meeting hosted by San Francisco Supervisor Chris Daly (District 6) to share information about the Alternatives Analysis process and the status of the options being studied for the high-speed rail station in downtown San Francisco, and to hear and address concerns from local residents and Supervisor Daly.

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| San Francisco - San Jose | Bob Doty | 12/16/2009 |
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PUBLIC EVENTS

Nothing to report this period

OTHER AUTHORITY BUSINESS**Caltrans Master Agreement**

Staff prepared Preliminary Initiation Documents (PIDs) for each Regional section in accordance with the Caltrans Master Agreement, which was signed 11/23, for Caltrans to prepare cost estimates for FY2010-11 Work Plans by early January 2010.

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| All | Carrie Pourvahidi, John Harrison | Week of 12/7 | Draft PIDs were provided to Caltrans the week of 12/7 |
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LOOKING AHEAD...

January Board Meeting

The monthly Board meeting will be held January 7 in Sacramento.

All

Sam Newman

1/7/2009

State Budget

The Governor is scheduled to release his 2010-11 budget, which will include a budget request from the Authority, on Jan. 11.

All

Carrie Pourvahidi

1/11/2009

ARRA Announcement

It is currently expected that an announcement on the \$8 billion in ARRA federal stimulus funding for high-speed intercity rail will be made mid- to late-January.

All

Mehdi Morshed

Mid- to Late-
January